

Amendments to the Drawing:

The attached Replacement Sheet of drawings includes changes to Figure 1. This sheet replaces the sheet of drawings filed on August 20, 2004. In FIG. 1, labels have been added as appropriate.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet
Annotated Sheet Showing Changes

REMARKS

The undersigned has conducted a thorough review of the application and its prosecution history to understand the issues at hand. Accordingly, amendments to the specification, claims and drawings are presented herein. In particular, claims 1-4 have been amended. Claims 1-4 remain in the application. Support for the amendments to the claims is identified herein below. No new matter has been added. This application has been carefully considered in connection with the Examiner's Action. Reconsideration, withdrawal of the final action, and allowance of the application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Objection to The Drawing:

The drawing filed August 8, 2004 was objected to for the reason that the boxes of FIG. 1 are not labeled appropriately. Applicant acknowledges the issue raised by the Examiner and in response thereto has amended the drawing. In particular, labels have been added to FIG. 1. As a result, the objection is now believed overcome. A replacement FIG. 1 has been provided. Accordingly, applicant requests withdrawal of the objection to the drawing.

Objection to The Specification:

The disclosure was objected to because of informalities. Applicant acknowledges the issue raised and in response thereto has amended the specification. In particular, the paragraph on page 4, lines 14-29 has been amended to clarify the concerns raised in the office action. As a result, the objection is now believed overcome. Furthermore, a number of other paragraphs in the specification have been amended for clarification. No new matter has been added, as the amendments to the specification can readily be inferred from the specification and drawings, as originally filed. Accordingly, applicant requests withdrawal of the objection to the specification.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 1-4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. With respect to claims 1-4, the same have been amended as noted herein to provide the correction and/or clarification, as appropriate. Support for the amendments to claim 1 (similarly, for claim 3), can be found in the specification on at least page 3, lines 22-30.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claim 1 recites an electronic signal processing apparatus with a signal switch, the switch comprising:

- a switch input, a switch output and an internal node;
- a first and a second depletion transistor, having main current channels coupled between the internal node and the switch input and output, respectively;
- a signal processing arrangement between the internal node and a common reference conductor of the switch input and switch output, the signal processing arrangement comprising:
 - a diode; and
 - a switch control circuit having a first control output and a second control output, wherein the first control output is coupled to the common reference conductor and wherein the second control output is coupled to the main current channels of the first and the second depletion transistor via the internal node, further via the diode in a forward direction, so as to control conduction of the main current channels,
- wherein the first and second depletion transistor further having control electrodes coupled to the common reference conductor,
- wherein the switch has a T-type attenuator structure having a leg and at least one branch, the diode being disposed in the leg of the T-type attenuator

structure and at least one transistor being disposed in the branch of the T-type attenuator structure, the T-type structure enabling the switch to remain in an "on" state even in the absence of an "off" state control voltage at the internal node, and

wherein the internal node applies a control voltage, in response to a signal on the second control output of the switch control circuit that is configured for forward-biasing the diode, that switches the switch via the at least one transistor to an "off" state.

Support for the amendments to claim 1 (similarly, for claim 3), can be found in the specification at least page 3, lines 22-30.

Claims 1-4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Weir (US 4,595,847). With respect to claim 1, Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection for at least the following reasons.

The PTO provides in MPEP § 2131 that

"[t]o anticipate a claim, the reference must teach every element of the claim...."

Therefore, with respect to claim 1, to sustain this rejection the Weir reference must contain all of the above claimed elements of the respective claims. However, contrary to the examiner's position that all elements are disclosed in the Weir reference, the latter reference does not disclose " ... a switch control circuit having a first control output and a second control output, [(i)] wherein the first control output is coupled to the common reference conductor and [(ii)] wherein the second control output is coupled to the main current channels of the first and the second depletion transistor via the internal node, further via the diode in a forward direction, so as to control conduction of the main current channels" and "wherein the first and second depletion transistor further

having control electrodes coupled to the common reference conductor ..." as is claimed in claim 1.

In contrast, while the switch of Weir teaches use of a zener diode and a pair of depletion type transistors, Weir does not teach or suggest the a "*first control output coupled to the common reference conductor*" and a "*second control output coupled to the main current channels* of the first and the second depletion transistor *via an internal node, further via a diode in a forward direction, so as to control conduction of the main current channels,*" nor does Weir teach or suggest "wherein the *first and second depletion transistor* further having *control electrodes coupled to the common reference conductor*" as is claimed in claim 1 of the present application.

Therefore, the rejection is not supported by the Weir reference and should be withdrawn.

Accordingly, claim 1 is allowable and an early formal notice thereof is requested. Dependent claim 2 depends from and further limits independent claim 1 and therefore is allowable as well.

By this amendment, claim 3 has been amended in a similar manner with respect the amendments to claim 1. Claim 3 is believed allowable over the Weir reference for reasons similar as stated herein above with respect to overcoming the rejection of claim 1. Accordingly, claim 3 is believed allowable and the rejection thereof should be withdrawn. Dependent claim 4 depends from and further limits independent claim 1 and therefore is allowable as well.

Conclusion

Except as indicated herein, the claims were not amended in order to address issues of patentability and Applicants respectfully reserve all rights they may have under the Doctrine of Equivalents. Applicants furthermore reserve their right to reintroduce subject matter deleted herein at a later time during the prosecution of this application or a continuation application.

It is clear from all of the foregoing that independent claims 1 and 3 are in condition for allowance. Dependent claims 2 and 4 depend from and further limit independent claims 1 and 3, respectively, and therefore are allowable as well. The amendments herein are fully supported by the original specification and drawings as discussed herein, therefore, no new matter is introduced. Withdrawal of the final action and issuance of an early formal notice of allowance of claims 1-4 is requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachments

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